

BOOK REVIEWS

MENTAL MISCHIEF AND EMOTIONAL CONFLICTS. By William S. Sadler, M.D., F.A.P.A., Consulting Psychiatrist, Columbus Hospital; Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Member of the American Psychopathological Association. 1947. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis.

That this 400-page volume is probably no worse than most works attempting to present modern concepts of nervous illness to the public is the best that can be said for it. There are portions of the book which, to the eye of the reader trained in this field, possess real merit. However, such a reader is no wiser for having read them; while the untrained reader certainly will be unable to discriminate between these passages and the many which are of doubtful value.

In essence, the book attempts to present, from the eclectic viewpoint, the whole gamut of functional nervous and mental diseases, from the standpoint of etiology, symptomatology, and treatment. The presentation is faintly reminiscent of the old fashioned "doctor book" which some of us can remember as occupying a high shelf in the bookcase of our childhood home. I am afraid it will prove equally unfruitful, if not actually dangerous, to its readers.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY. By H. Houston Merritt, M.D., Professor of Clinical Neurology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University; Chief of Division of Neuropsychiatry, The Montefiore Hospital; Fred A. Mettler, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and Tracy Jackson Putnam, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Neurological Surgery, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. 1947. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia. 96 Illustrations. 289 pages. Price \$6.00.

This work can be termed a handbook in the practical sense that in a relatively small volume it includes those things which should be encompassed in the knowledge of the general practitioner of medicine regarding the specialty of neurology. It fills a definite need for a text which may be recommended to the medical student on his first contact with clinical neurology, yet will not be outgrown by him even though he should ultimately come to specialize in the field.

The mechanics of the neurological examination is very well covered. There is perhaps more detailed stress on anatomical relationships not too clearly related to the clinical pictures presented; some of this complexity is certainly due to the widespread use of diagrams from a text on neuroanatomy by one of the authors which goes far beyond the clear and simplified presentation provided by this book.

The volume is well bound in a water-resistant cover. The type face and paper are excellent; it is a pity that current standards of workmanship allowed at least the copy seen by this reviewer to be badly smudged with ink in a number of places.

A SURGEON'S DOMAIN. By Bertram M. Bernheim, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery at The Johns Hopkins Medical School and Visiting Surgeon to The Johns Hopkins Hospital. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York. Price \$3.00.

The author, an Associate Professor of Surgery at Johns Hopkins Medical School, dramatizes in this book the many problems that arise during the teaching and training of young surgeons. He emphasizes the hazard to the patients of poorly done surgery and makes a rosy picture of the surgeon's artistry and skill as it is evidenced in a perfectly performed operation.

The political complexities of staff and hospital management which exist everywhere are laid wide open.

The nurse problem, which is now quite acute and will require more consideration as time moves along, the author feels can be solved by less rigid requirements and more pay for student nurses. Those nurses with good educational background and qualifications should be advanced to higher grades of standing and compensation. They might, in a way, assume some of the duties of internes.

The author proposes the institutionalizing of well qualified surgeons, which he feels will enhance the standing of the profession and promote for the patients a healthier concept of indications and technique in the performance of surgical operations. This arrangement exists now in a few instances where full time faculties occupy medical schools. Dr. Bernheim evidently wishes the same procedure for all hospitals.

The author calls attention to the turmoil and unhappiness that envelopes the very well trained young surgeon embarking upon the Sea of Free Enterprise. Many fall into the trap of fee division which evidently exists more or less in various communities. It is an unhealthy situation and should be actively attacked by all agencies. Perhaps one can agree with him that the road can be made easier by the government gliding such a well trained man into an institution established in an out-of-the-way community, subsidized for the purpose of better medical care. This may be on the way right now.

This book will be found interesting in many particulars to all doctors and their patients.

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EXPERIENCES WITH FOLIC ACID. By Tom D. Spies, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, Director of the Nutrition Clinic, Hillman Hospital, Birmingham, Alabama. 110 pages. Illustrated. 1947. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago. Price \$3.75.

This is a monographic review of the work recently done on folic acid and of the work done generally on macrocytic anemias by Spies and his collaborators. It is written in a chatty, entertaining, journal-

istic style by an enthusiast who vents his ideas and opinions with the gusto of a father describing his first born male child. If it is not a rigidly scientific manuscript, it is interesting as the revelation of an active, restless mind which jumps from point to point in the narrative even as the author has scrambled from rock to rock in his quest among the macrocytic anemias.

The first half of the monograph deals with the study of macrocytic anemia in general. The latter half is concerned with folic acid. The impression conveyed is summarized by the statement (on page 46) that of 218 persons who received folic acid "every person with Addisonian pernicious anemia, sprue, nutritional macrocytic anemia, macrocytic anemia of pregnancy and nutritional leukopenia has responded satisfactorily." One has to read another 30 pages before he finds out that combined system disease not only fails to regress but may actually develop while the patient is receiving folic acid. It therefore is not a substitute for liver extract but at present actually is harmful unless given under controlled experimental conditions. One may mention, too, that other investigators have not had the author's uniformly happy hematological response in non-tropical sprue.

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PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF OBSTETRICS. By Joseph B. DeLee, M.D., and J. P. Greenhill, M.D. Ninth Edition, with 1108 illustrations on 860 figures, 211 in color. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. 1947. Price \$10.00.

This grand old text has been revised extensively by Dr. J. P. Greenhill, who for many years was a close associate of the late Doctor DeLee. Doctor Greenhill edited the previous edition with pious respect for the departed author without making major changes. In the present edition he has dropped much that had become traditional and outmoded and added considerable material in line with progress in the fundamental and clinical sciences. A number of the old chapters have been rewritten in their entirety; several new chapters have been added. The present edition has been enhanced by many new illustrations cleverly designed to help the beginner in visualizing difficult problems.

Analgesia and anesthesia has been brought up-to-date in text and graphic depiction of technical matters. Methods are compared critically in regard to safety and hazards. This chapter condenses much useful and basic information into relatively few pages, making it easy for the busy practitioner and overworked student to acquire basic knowledge with a minimal amount of reading. Fetal erythroblastosis and the Rh factor actually can be read with profit and enjoyment, having been boiled down to essentials without obscuring the subject matter with highly technical descriptions. The chapters dealing with various aspects of physiology are well illustrated and the respective discussions deal with a difficult subject in a manner that should please teacher and student alike and even might entice the busy practitioner to revise old notions. The various chapters

dealing with the architecture of the pelvis and its bearing on the mechanisms of labor are a bit disjointed, as they are in most obstetrical texts, but they contain much useful information, though the reviewer would have welcomed a more extensive discussion of the comparative value of radiographic and manual pelvimetry. However, salient factors in pelvic architecture and their bearing on labor are reviewed in the light of traditional as well as anthropomorphic values so that the observant student can equip himself adequately for a better understanding of the normal and abnormal mechanism of labor.

Doctor Greenhill has enhanced the value of chapters describing the various disease processes encountered in pregnancy by adding newer conceptions of their etiology and their treatment. Chapters covering normal pregnancy and labor essentially were left unchanged. Operative obstetrics are illustrated in detail, including the newer techniques of extraperitoneal cesarean section. Much of the treatment described in the various chapters is based on experience at the Chicago Lying-In Hospital. A more extensive discussion of proven methods used elsewhere would have enhanced the value of therapeutic matters. However, this purely is the personal reaction of the reviewer and in no way is meant to belittle the splendid job done by Doctor Greenhill in perpetuating one of the great textbooks of obstetrics.

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PRACTICAL PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, Twelfth Edition. By Philip B. Hawk, Ph.D., President, Food Research Laboratories, Inc., Long Island City, New York; Bernard L. Oser, Ph.D., Director, Food Research Laboratories, Inc., Long Island City, New York, and William H. Summerson, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Cornell University Medical College, New York City. Copyright 1947. The Blakiston Company, Publishers, Philadelphia. Price \$10.00.

The present edition, appearing 40 years after the first and ten years after the most recent edition, exemplifies the growth and present state of physiological chemistry. Its well-printed and well-bound 1,323 pages contain directions for carrying out almost every qualitative or quantitative chemical analysis likely to find a place in medicine.

Many modern devices and their applications are discussed: the polarograph, electrophoresis apparatus, photoelectric colorimeter, flame photometer, photoelectric quartz spectro-photometer, photofluorometer, and mass spectrometer, each receive attention. There is a section on isotopes, and a chapter on antibiotics and metabolic antagonists; the 17-keto-steroids are included.

There appear to be few shortcomings. Urinary casts are described, but the chemical properties causing the disappearance of hyaline casts from dilute or alkaline urine receive no attention. Methods are not given for the determination of substances used in the measurement of glomerular filtration rate or renal plasma flow. Watson's simple test for the detection of porphobilinogen in the urine is omitted. In many places, interpretations of the results of chemical analyses leave much to be desired.